That which is claimed:

1. A system for conducting commerce including a community of participants in a market segment of an industry comprising:

    a computer network;

    a user;

    the market segment within the industry of interest to the user;

    a database for information relevant to the industry or to the market segment accessible to the user via the computer network, the database comprising at least one of: data, a value-added service and a commerce service; and

    a user interface, wherein the user interface provides access to the information.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the community comprises a market segment within an industry.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the community comprises a plurality of market segements within an industry.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises one or more of the following users:

    a feedstock producer;

    a raw material producer;

    a manufacturer;

    an end user of the manufacturer's product;

an original equipment manufacturer; and

a supporting participant, wherein the supporting participant comprises one of: a

consulting firm, a testing firm, a logistics firm and an indirect supply manufacturer.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the data comprise at least one of:

a corporate detail;

a market information report;

a business intelligence report;

an end-use customer product demand report;

a product offering;

a service offering; and

a logistics detail.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the value-added service comprises at least one of:

a Material Safety Data Sheet;

a starting-point formula;

a formulation determination calculator;

a problem-solving service;

a market report;

a business intelligence report; and

a training service.

8.   The system of claim 1 wherein commerce service comprises at least one of :

a multi-vendor product catalog;

a liquid exchange for high-volume commodities;

a customer-specific pricing functionality;

a quotation functionality;

a purchasing-agent service;

a surplus-auction service; and

a single point system-to-system integration service.

9. A process for facilitating development of a community of participants in a vertically-related market comprising the steps of:

identifying a participant;

identifying an industry of interest to the participant;

identifying a market segment within the industry of interest to the participant;

compiling information relevant to the industry or to the market segment comprising at least one of: data, a value-added service and a commerce service; and

displaying the information.

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the community comprises a single industry.

11. The process of claim 9, wherein the community comprises a single market segment within a single industry.

12. The process of claim 9, wherein the community comprises the chemicals industry.

13. The process of claim 9, wherein the community comprises the paint and coatings market segment of the chemicals industry.

14. The process of claim 9, wherein the community comprises the adhesives and sealants market segment of the chemicals industry.

15. The process of claim 9, wherein the community of market participants comprises:

    a feedstock producers;

    a raw material producer;

    a manufacturer;

    an end user of the manufacturer's product;

    an original equipment manufacturer; and

    a supporting participant, wherein the supporting participant comprises one of: a consulting firm, a testing firm, a logistics firm and an indirect supply manufacturer.

16. The process of claim 9, wherein the data comprises at least one of:

    a corporate detail;

    a market information report;

    a business intelligence report;

    an end-use customer product demand report;

    a product offering;

    a service offering; and

    a logistics detail.

17. The process of claim 9, wherein the value-added service comprises at least one of:

    a Material Safety Data Sheet;

    a starting-point formula;

    a formulation determination calculator;

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a problem-solving service;

a market report;

a business intelligence report; and

a training service.

18.   The process in claim 9, wherein the commerce service comprises:

a multi-vendor product catalog;

a liquid exchange for high-volume commodities;

a customer-specific pricing functionality;

a quotation functionality;

a purchasing-agent service;

a surplus-auction service; and

a single point system-to-system integration service.

19.   A computer system for facilitating development on a computer network of a

community of participants in a vertically-related market comprising:

a means for identifying a network user;

a means for identifying an industry of interest to the user;

a means for identifying a market segment within the industry of interest to the user;

a means for searching a database for information relevant to the industry or to the

market segment comprising at least one of: data, a value-added service and a

commerce service; and

a means for displaying a user interface, wherein the user interface provides access to

the information.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the community comprises a single industry.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein the community comprises a single market segment within a single industry.

23. The system of claim 19, wherein the community comprises the chemicals industry.

24. The system of claim 19, wherein the community comprises the paint and coatings market segment of the chemicals industry.

25. The system of claim 19, wherein the community is limited to the adhesives and sealants market segment of the chemicals industry.

26. The system of claim 19, wherein the community of market participants comprises:
    a feedstock producers;
    a raw material producer;
    a manufacturer;
    an end user of the manufacturer's product;
    an original equipment manufacturer; and
    a supporting participant, wherein the supporting participant comprises one of: a consulting firm, a testing firm, a logistics firm and an indirect supply manufacturer.

27. The system of claim 19, wherein the database comprises a Microsoft SQLServer database.

28. The system of claim 19, wherein the database comprises a document repository.

29. The system of claim 19, wherein the database comprises a document repository, wherein access to the document repository is managed by Microsoft Index Server.

30. The system of claim 19, wherein the data comprises at least one of:

a corporate detail;

a market information report;

a business intelligence report;

an end-use customer product demand report;

a product offering;

a service offering; and

a logistics detail.

31. The system of claim 19, wherein the value-added service comprises at least one of:

a Material Safety Data Sheet;

a starting-point formula;

a formulation determination calculator;

a problem-solving service;

a market report;

a business intelligence report; and

a training service.

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32.   The system of claim 19, wherein the commerce service comprises:

a multi-vendor product catalog;

a liquid exchange for high-volume commodities;

a customer-specific pricing functionality;

a quotation functionality;

a purchasing-agent service;

a surplus-auction service; and

a single point system-to-system integration service.

33.   The system in claim 19, wherein the user interface comprises an HTML page.

34.   The system in claim 19, wherein the user interface comprises an HTML page
generated by a Microsoft Active Server Pages (ASP) program.

35.   The system in claim 19, wherein the value-added service comprises a scripted
function executed within an ASP program.

36.   The system in claim 19 wherein the commerce service comprises a scripted function
executed within an ASP program.

37.   The system in claim 19, wherein the value-added service comprises an executant,
wherein access to the executant is managed through an object brokering service.

38.   The system in claim 19, wherein the commerce service comprises an executant, wherein access to the executant is managed through an object brokering service.